

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) An insert-molded connector ~~formed by insert-molding a housing (10) at least partly covering a core (30) holding, comprising:~~ at least one terminal fitting (20) ~~as a core assembly, the~~ having opposite first and second longitudinal ends, a core (30) comprises a holdable portion (36; 60) to be held by a molding die (50) at a position at least partly exposed from the housing (10) formed from first and second holding members assembled around portions of the terminal fitting between the first and second longitudinal ends so that the first and second longitudinal ends of the terminal fitting project beyond first and second ends of the core, portions of the core at the first end defining a holdable portion, and a housing molded into engagement with all external surface areas of the core except the holdable portion and molded into surrounding engagement with a portion of the terminal fitting between the second end of the core and the second longitudinal end of the terminal fitting, whereby the holdable portion of the core is supportable during molding of the housing around the core and the terminal fitting.

2. (currently amended) The insert-molded connector of claim 1, wherein the housing ~~(10)~~ comprises a connector fitting portion ~~(11)~~ engageable with a mating connector ~~(40)~~, and the holdable portion ~~(36; 60)~~ is located in a sealed area of the connector fitting portion ~~(11)~~ defined between the connector fitting portion ~~(11)~~ and a mating connector ~~(40)~~.

3. (currently amended) The insert-molded connector of claim 1, wherein the housing ~~(10)~~ and the core ~~(30)~~ are molded of synthetic resin materials having different colors.

4. (canceled).

5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended) Then insert-molding connector of claim-5_1, wherein the holding members-~~(31, 32)~~ comprise interlocking means-~~(34, 35)~~ for interlocking the holding members-~~(31, 32)~~ to each other.

7. (currently amended) A method of molding an insert-molded connector, comprising the following steps:

providing at least one terminal fitting having opposite first and second longitudinal ends;

providing a core-~~(30)~~ holding at least one terminal fitting-~~(20)~~ as a core assembly having first and second holding members;

assembling the first and second holding members around portions of the terminal fitting between the first and second longitudinal ends so that the first longitudinal end of the terminal fitting projects from a first end of the core and so that the second longitudinal end of the terminal fitting projects from a second end of the core, a portion of the first end of the core defining a holdable portion;

arranging a first molding die-~~(50)~~ substantially around relative to the core ~~(30)~~ in such a way so that a the first molding die engages the holdable portion-~~(36; 60)~~ of for supporting the core-~~(30)~~ is held by the molding die-~~(50)~~ and, the first molding die further surrounding a first portion of the core while leaving a first cavity between the first molding die and the first portion of the core;

arranging a second molding die around a second portion of the core while leaving a second cavity between the second molding die and the second portion of the core;

molding a housing ~~(10)~~ at least partly in the first and second cavities so that the housing covers all of the core except for the holdable portion at the first end of the core covering the core ~~(30)~~ within the molding die ~~(50)~~.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the housing ~~(10)~~ and the core ~~(30)~~ are molded of synthetic resin materials having different colors.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the molding die ~~(50)~~ comprises mount grooves ~~(54, 55)~~ for positioning the terminal fitting ~~(20)~~ during the molding.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the core ~~(30)~~ comprises at least two holding members ~~(31, 32)~~ and wherein the terminal fitting ~~(20)~~ is at least partly fitted at least into a terminal mounting groove ~~(33)~~ of one holding member ~~(31)~~ and then another holding member ~~(32)~~ is fitted to the mounting surface of the holding member ~~(31)~~ for holding the terminal fitting ~~(20)~~ at least partly clamped between the holding members ~~(31, 32)~~.

11. (new) The insert-molded connector of claim 1, wherein the terminal fitting includes a substantially right angle bend, the bend being disposed between the first and second holding members.

12. (new) The insert-molded connector of claim 1, wherein the terminal fitting is directly engaged by each of said first and second holding members.